GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:666
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
REGULATORY REGIME FOR WETLANDS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to regulate the wetlands on the basis of their usage as reported in The Hindu dated 05.10.07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to introduce a regulatory regime for wetlands in the country on the basis of their usage;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has identified major wetlands for conservation in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(g) the time by which the regulating regime for wetlands will be considered?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) National Environment Policy (NEP) has recognized the various ecological services provided by wetlands and emphasized on the need for setting up a legally enforceable mechanism for the identified wetlands on the basis of their usage for preventing their degradation and strengthening conservation efforts. A special multi-disciplinary Expert Group constituted for this purpose provided a draft regulatory framework for wetlands to be notified under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The proposed regulatory structure has provision of Central Regulatory Authority, State Regulatory Authority and District Regulatory Authority. The classification of wetlands is based on their size, threat perceptions and importance at various levels.

(e) & (f) The Ministry has identified 94 wetlands under National Wetland Conservation Programme. State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

(g) The normal procedure is to invite the comments of State Governments and other stakeholders on the draft regulatory framework before it is finally approved and notified.